

[NEVADA CLIMATE SUMMARY]

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MAY 18 2005

STATE PUBLICATIONS

JULY 1994
VOLUME 13, NUMBER 7SYNOPSIS

July was another hot and dry month for most of Nevada, in fact the 5th month in a row that such conditions have existed over much of the Silver State. This, coupled with 7 of the last 8 years falling in the drought category, have left Western Nevada with the driest range and mountain environments since at least the drought of the 1860's to 1880's. Conditions are dry but not so critical in the remainder of the State.

Water Year precipitation (Oct. 1, 1993-Aug. 1, 1994) is only about 1/2 of normal in the West and South, 3/4 of normal in the North and Northeast and 80-90% in Central portions of the State. Only a handful of locations in the Northeast and Central areas have had near normal precipitation so far this Water Year.

TEMPERATURE

Departure from normal temperatures were generally in the 2-4 degrees above normal category, ranging from near normal at Elko to +6 degrees at Virginia City, where Comstock residents suffered through the warmest month in 63 years. The remainder of Western Nevada fared no better as Reno averaged 77.2 degrees, 5 1/2 degrees above normal and only 0.2 degrees from the all-time warm month (July 1931) in 107 years of record keeping. It was about the same story in the South where at Las Vegas, with 57 years of Airport records only July 1959 and July 1989 were hotter. Neither Las Vegas or Reno broke their all-time highs set back in July 1931, with 118 and 106 degrees, respectively.

At the end of the week long heat wave the end of June, when Laughlin recorded 125 for an all-time State record, July 1st produced 122 degrees thus tying the July State record, set several times at several locations. It was also 120+ degrees at Callville Bay, Echo Bay, and Cottonwood Cove, on the 1st. On the cool side, Lilly O'Toole in the Reese River Valley had frost on a few mornings early in the month, with a 28 degree reading on the 6th. At Boies Ranch Marla Griswold recorded 24 degrees on the 5th, and Frank Prunty had 23 on the 3rd, with 16 nights below freezing.

PRECIPITATION

Scattered thunderstorms produced a few local locations of above normal precipitation, but the general trend was well below normal during this normally not very wet month. Two of the wettest reporting sites were Kyle and Lee Canyon on Mt. Charleston with 1.49 and 1.24 respectively, both below normal for the month at these 7500 and 8500 foot sites. In the Northeast Montello had an above normal 1.25", with 1.52 at North Spring Valley, 1.50" of which fell on the afternoon of the 31st. At Tybo, East of Tonopah, Nevada Coates had 1.68" the same afternoon. More than half of the reporting sites had no rain this month. Other wet spots were the Fallon Naval Air Station with .56", or twice normal, Ely 1.03" - 1&1/2 times normal, Mountain City .83", also 1&1/2 times normal.

SUNSHINE, WIND & EVAPORATION

The percentage of possible sunshine hours was near normal, with for example 94% at Reno, 87% at Las Vegas and 86% at Winnemucca. Wind speeds averaged near normal for the month. A peak gust of over 70mph was logged at Overton Beach on the 19th, with gusts over 60mph in Western Nevada on the 21st.

Evaporation was well above normal with 21.97" at Silverpeak, 18.51" at Overton, 16.00" at Pahrump, 12.57 at the Gund Ranch, 13.50" at Pahranaagat NWR, and 11.92" of pan evaporation at Ruby Lake.

NOTE 1: Here are the names of some additional weather observers inadvertently left off our "Thank You List". Byrne Falke-Upper Incline Washoe County, Dan Dragan-Washoe County, Pat Farias-Flanigan Washoe County, and Bette and Dave Jackson -lifelong Fernley residents, Lyon County.

NOTE 2: After inspection of the site and the instrumentation and in talking with the observer, the 125 degree all-time Nevada high temperature set last June 29th at Laughlin is official. Captain Fernando Zorrilla, Clark County Fire Department Acting Captain, told me that the weather observer that day, Fireman Steve Caskey, was very conscientious, and read the thermometer several times on the afternoon of the 29th, with the 125 degree reading occurring at about 3:30 p.m..

NEVADA'S HOTTEST DAY? Here are some samples.

Las Vegas	118	July 1931
Reno	106	July 1931
Austin	105	July 1931
Winnemucca	108	July 1931
Minden	108	July 1931
Searchlight	111	July 1942
Battle Mtn.	112	July 1909

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